

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2777

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2777.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill clarifies the meaning of the phrase “deviations as are reasonably necessary” as it applies to transporting firearms in this State.

Under certain circumstances, a person who lawfully transports a firearm in this State is required to keep the firearm unloaded and either contained in a closed and fastened case or locked in the trunk of the motor vehicle. This applies to licensed firearms dealers traveling during their normal business; firearm owners transporting their firearms for repairs; members of authorized rifle and pistol clubs transporting their firearms to and from target practice; persons traveling to hunting or fishing destinations; and persons traveling to certain firearms exhibitions.

Persons authorized to transport a firearm under these circumstances may, in the course of travel, take only deviations that are reasonably necessary under the circumstances. As amended, the bill defines “deviations as are reasonably necessary” to mean collecting and discharging certain passengers, purchasing fuel, using a restroom, contending with an emergency situation, and other reasonably necessary deviations of no more than 15 minutes in duration. The committee amendments expand the definition of “deviations as are reasonably necessary” to include reasonably necessary deviations of no more than 15 minutes in duration.

The amended bill also clarifies that a person transporting a weapon is required to comply with all other applicable State laws relating to weapons.